

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

GREGORY MORRIS,)
))
 Plaintiff,) vs.) No. 3:23-CV-751-E (BH)
))
BISHOP T.D. JAKES,))
 Defendant.)) Referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge¹

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the relevant filings and applicable law, the case should be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders.

I. BACKGROUND

On April 10, 2023, a filing that appeared to be a lawsuit for libel was received from the *pro se* prisoner plaintiff. (See doc. 3.) By *Notice of Deficiency and Order* dated April 11, 2023, he was notified that his filing did not comply with the requirement in Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a) of a “short and plain statement of the claim showing that [he was] entitled to relief,” and he was ordered to submit a legible compliant amended complaint that identified his claims against the defendant within thirty days. (See doc. 4.) He was also notified that he had neither paid the filing fee or sought leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), and he was ordered to file a fully completed and signed IFP application within thirty days. (See *id.*) He was specifically advised that a failure to do so could result in the dismissal of the case for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders. (See *id.*)

Well more than thirty days from the date of the notice and order have passed, but the plaintiff has not filed his amended complaint and either paid the filing fee or submitted an IFP application

¹ By Special Order No. 3-251, this *pro se* prisoner case has been automatically referred for full case management.

on the correct form with the required certificate of inmate trust account, and he has not filed anything else in this case.

II. INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permits a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court. *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988) (§ 1983 prisoner action). This authority flows from a court's inherent power to control its docket, prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases, and avoid congested court calendars. *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962). Here, the plaintiff has not submitted an amended complaint and either paid the filing fee or filed an IFP application with the required certificate of inmate trust account as ordered, despite a warning that failure to do so could result in dismissal of the case. He has not filed anything else in the case. Because the plaintiff failed to follow court orders or otherwise show that he intends to proceed with this case, it should be dismissed.

III. RECOMMENDATION

This case should be dismissed without prejudice under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court, unless the plaintiff files an amended complaint on the correct form and either pays the filing fee or files a fully completed IFP application with the required certificate of inmate trust account within the time for objecting to this recommendation, or by some other deadline set by the court.

SO RECOMMENDED on this 9th day of June, 2023.


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of these findings, conclusions, and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of these findings, conclusions and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE